

REMARKS

Status

This Amendment is responsive to the Office Action dated October 14, 2003, in which Claims 1-22 were rejected. No claims have been canceled; Claims 1 and 15 have been amended; and no new claims have been added. Accordingly, Claims 1-22 are pending in the application, and are presented for reconsideration and allowance.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC 103(a)

Claims 1-22 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent No. 5,869,839 (*Wendlandt*) and further in view of US Patent No. 4,336,678 (*Peters*). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Peters provides a web/chord interface for wooden composite beams. Scallops 29 are formed by **compressing** edges 25,27 between rollers so that opposite sides of the web are identically compressed. These scallops form glue channels during assembly. More particularly, the scallops provide an **expanding surface** when they react with the liquid in glues. The expansion is due to the wood's memory which responds to moisture. (Col 4, lines 33-54). Thus, *Peters* never reduces/eliminates/removes any material from the web. Indeed, *Peters* stresses that no material is removed, stating at Col. 5, lines 66-68 that "the scallops 29 are formed by compressing the fiber of the edges 25, rather than by cutting away these edges".

In contrast, in the present invention, the edge insert is not compressed – rather, it includes a groove or recess. That is, material is removed from the edge insert to form the groove/recess; the edge insert is not compressed and the groove/recess material is not re-generated upon gluing. This is clearly shown in Figures 14-16 of the present invention as groove/recess 100.

In addition, *Peters* does not recognize the problem being solved by the present invention. As stated at Page 2, lines 17-21, existing cassettes are **susceptible to various types of damage when dropped or roughly handled**. One type of damage is bending/buckling along a straight edge of the cassette, similar to the motion of a hinge. Applicants have recognized that elimination of the straight line at the adhesive substrate interface, where a bending/buckling failure normally occurs, does reduce/eliminate this type of damage since it eliminates the

linear bending/buckling path. This feature of the present invention is clearly described in the Specification at Page 8, lines 8-21, stating:

The stiffness of the edge of honeycomb core 71 is further enhanced since the linear path for bending/buckling has been reduced/eliminated. That is, there is no longer a linear path for bending or buckling to occur between edge inserts 76,80 and honeycomb core 71, in the event of an impact force or rough handling to cassette 10. Should cassette 10 experience an impact force, the impact force would be directed along the non-linear path where the adhesive (filler material) interfaces to either honeycomb core 71 or recesses 100 in edge inserts 76,80, and since there is no linear path, the likelihood of bending or buckling is reduced/eliminated. Stated alternatively, should cassette 10 experience an impact force, the additional material filling honeycomb core 71 in conjunction with the non-linear interfaces of the adhesive/epoxy to both honeycomb core 71 and recesses 100 in edge inserts 76,80, reduce/eliminate the likelihood of bending or buckling in that location since the linear interface has been removed, the linear interface being the area likely to fail (i.e., prone to failure).

Thus, there is an advantage of the present invention which is not recognized by the cited references, whether taken alone or in combination. These features of the present invention are clearly claimed in amended independent Claim 1 as “a second end of the edge insert comprising at least one recess on the first side wherein the recess is formed by removing material from the first side thereby forming a non-linear interface between the edge insert and the insert plate” and in amended independent Claim 15 as “the first and second edge inserts each having a second end comprising a plurality of spaced recesses wherein the recesses are formed by removing material from the edge inserts thereby forming a non-linear interface between each edge insert and the insert plate”. Accordingly, the present invention, as claimed in Claims 1 and 15, would not result from the combination of *Wendlandt* and *Peters*.

For the reasons stated above, Claims 1 and 15 are believed to be patentable over the cited references.

Claims 2-14 and 16-22 are dependent on independent Claims 1 or 15, and therefore include all the features thereof. For the reasons set forth above with regard to Claims 1 and 15, Claims 2-14 and 16-22 are also believed to be patentable.

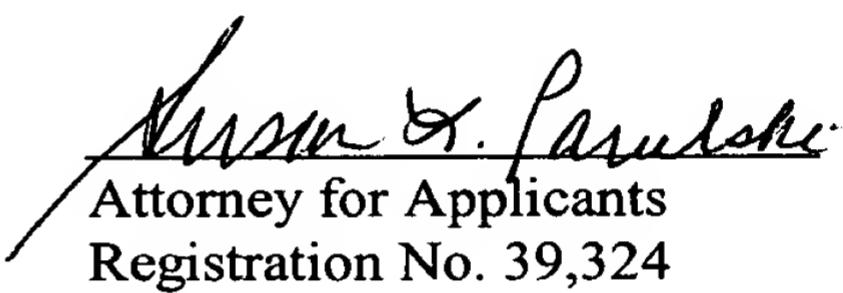
With specific regard to Claims 11-14 and 20-21, an edge insert having both a recess and channel would not be obvious from the cited references. Accordingly, Claims 11-14 and 20-21 are believed to be patentable.

Summary

Should the Examiner consider that additional amendments are necessary to place the application in condition for allowance, the favor is requested of a telephone call to the undersigned counsel for the purpose of discussing such amendments.

For the reasons set forth above, it is believed that the application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and favorable action are respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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